

diate notice. If the diarrhœa really depend on other causes, and not on cholera, no mischief will follow from its arrest by medicine;—if, however, it depend on the cholera-poison beginning already to operate on the body—then, by resorting to treatment, a life may be saved. It must be remembered that we have no means of determining *à priori* on what the diarrhœa depends; and, contrary to popular belief, it appears that the diarrhœa of cholera is really of a more mild description than that which arises from any local cause of irritation in the bowels.—*London Med. Gaz.*, Oct. 6, 1848.

83. *New Remedies for Epidemic Cholera.*—The experience derived from the second invasion of Europe by cholera, seems to have led to no important discoveries in the mode of treating that disease. Three new remedies only have been offered with any claims to confidence. The first, the Persian Petroleum, which was ushered into notice under the sanction of Mr. Guthrie, was said to have been used in Russia with great success. Its fame was, however, but short-lived—subsequent trials have not justified any confidence in it. Mr. Robinson tried it in Edinburgh, as will be seen by a subsequent article, but its sole power seemed to be to allay the vomitings, and for this it was not superior to other known articles.

Chloroform, as might have been anticipated, has been employed, and the apparent success with which it was used at the Peckham House Asylum, excited great hopes that it would prove of the greatest utility. These hopes have not, we are sorry to say, been realized. It seems to have the power, solely, of allaying the pain and cramps, but to exert no curative influence over the disease. Full accounts of the use of the article in the Peckham House Asylum, and also in the Cholera Hospital at Edinburgh, will be found in subsequent articles.

The last remedy we are to notice is the terchloride of carbon. This article is said to produce reaction, in the dose of five grains, but the evidence of its power is too vague to enable us to judge what confidence can be reposed in it.

In the following articles will be found all the information of interest which has appeared in the late journals respecting the treatment of this epidemic.

84. *Persian Petroleum in Cholera.*—Dr. ROBERTSON says that this article, of which he employed an undoubtedly genuine specimen, when given in doses of ten or twelve minims, immediately after the contents of the stomach have been ejected, either with a teaspoonful of tincture of cardamoms, or suspended in mucilage, he had frequently found of service in preventing the recurrence of vomiting, and believes that when this symptom is troublesome, the remedy is at least as certain as opium, acetate of lead, or calomel. In the majority of cases it has (like every other drug) failed, and certainly it has no specific action as a cure for cholera.—*Month. Journ.*, Dec. 1848.

85. *Treatment of Cholera by Chloroform in Peckham House Asylum.*—Dr. JAMES HILL states that the chloroform, the use of which was first suggested by Mr. Francis Ferguson, the assistant-surgeon of the Peckham House Asylum, has been employed in ten cases of malignant cholera with perfect success, and has likewise received the sanction of Dr. Clutterbuck, the visiting physician, and Mr. Fidler, the visiting surgeon of the establishment.

The disease first broke out there in a malignant form on the 19th inst. (one mild case having appeared two days before), when four cases occurred, two of which proved fatal, the one in seven and the other in eleven hours. On the following morning a new case occurred, in a very aggravated form, characterized by incessant vomiting and cramps, violent purging, universal coldness and blueness of skin, and general collapse.

Seeing that the most approved methods of treatment were of no avail, either in this case or in those attacked the previous day (another of whom was fast sinking), and that this patient must likewise assuredly sink ere long, unless relief were obtained, Mr. Ferguson suggested the employment of chloroform by inhalation, under the influence of which she was then placed, (in one hour after being attacked), with the abatement of every bad symptom; the nervous system being

immediately tranquilized, the vomiting and cramps ceasing, the purging being checked, and the heat of the body returning.

"This success, says Mr. H., encouraged us to persevere; and we have now employed it in ten cases of malignant cholera with complete success, six having perfectly recovered, and four being convalescent.

"In two of the fatal cases it was also used, but in them the patients were both sinking before the remedy was thought of.

"In the asylum we have had in all seventeen cases of malignant cholera; of whom five have died, eight have recovered, and four remain under treatment, but are now convalescent.

"The following is our usual mode of treatment:—Place the patient in bed in warm blankets; give a glass of brandy in hot water, with sugar, and spice; apply friction to the body by means of warm flannels; and an embrocation composed of liniment. saponis comp., liniment. camphoræ, comp. tinct. opii, and extract. belladonnæ; apply to the whole surface of the body bags filled with heated bran; place the patient under the influence of chloroform by inhalation, and keep him gently under its effect as long as the bad symptoms recur, (which they frequently do on its effect ceasing and his regaining consciousness). Give in the intervals small quantities of brandy and water, and thin arrow-root or milk for nourishment, along with milk and water, or soda water with a little brandy for drink. Avoid everything else in the shape of medicine, and trust to the efforts of nature in rallying from the poison of the disease.

"Of course great caution is necessary in administering the chloroform, and in not pushing it too far. In some instances the patient will sleep for twenty minutes or half an hour—in others, for several hours; and on awaking will again be seized with a return of the vomiting and cramps, when the chloroform must again be resorted to, and the patient kept in a great measure under its influence till these symptoms abate. One of our cases required its use at intervals for twenty-four hours. Again, the reaction after its use may be so great as to require gentle blood-letting; which occurred in two of our cases, both being persons of full habit of body and sanguine temperament, the one a nurse, and the other a male farm servant.

"Should the simple apparatus commonly used in the hospitals for administering it not be at hand, a small teaspoonful may be poured upon a towel, and will answer very well. That which we use is of great purity, and procured chiefly from Messrs. Gifford and Linden, chemists, 104, Strand."—*Dublin Med. Press*, Nov. 8, 1848.

86. *Treatment of Cholera by Chloroform at the Peckham House Asylum.*—By Messrs. HILL and FERGUSON.

Total number of malignant cases	-	-	-	42	} 48
Relapses	-	-	-	6	
Recoveries, 33; Deaths, 15.					
Treated by chloroform, as the sheet-anchor—					
Cases	-	-	-	-	37
Relapses	-	-	-	-	6
Recoveries, 31; Deaths, 12.					

Two of these, however, were dying before the chloroform was thought of as a remedy.

All of the cases were undoubtedly of confirmed malignant cholera, and, with scarcely an exception, presented the whole of the following symptoms—viz., vomiting, purging, cramps, and collapse; while in many the characteristic blueness of countenance and extremities was well marked.

The great object in the treatment is to get the patient under the influence of the chloroform before the collapse is extreme, and the system has been drained by excessive discharges, in which cases the amendment has appeared to be merely temporary. Many of our cases have been struck down lifeless, as it were, from the very first, and in such, I fear, no remedy will ever be found of much avail.

In addition to the above malignant cases, we have had nearly sixty instances in which the following premonitory symptoms occurred—namely, nausea, diar-